GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:61
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004
PRODUCTION OF ONION
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe;Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of onion produced and exported during the last one year and till-date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has made arrangement to purchase this crop and to stabilize the prices;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith quantity of onion purchased;

(d) whether the Union Government has decided to delete onion from the list of essential commodities;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the State Governments thereto and its likely impact on production and export of onion;

(f) the number of farmers who got assistance/loan for the purpose during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(g) the details of nodal agency working in this regard alongwith rate of interest fixed thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 61 DUE FOR REPLY ON 6TH DECEMBER, 2004.

(a): The State wise details about the quantity of onion produced during the year 2003-04 is given in Annexure-I. The export of onion during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Qty (MT)	Value (Rs lakhs)
2001-2002	536927	46597.98
2002-2003	580951	43919.06
2003-2004	840661	82170.50

Source: National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.

(b)&(c): The Government has not made any arrangements to purchase onion.

(d)&(e): Yes, Sir. Onion has been withdrawn from the list of essential commodities with effect from 2004-05. This has been done with a view to facilitate free trade and marketing of onion, which in turn would encourage the farmers for taking up production for domestic consumption as well as exports. No reaction has been received from the State Governments in this regard.

(f)&(g): Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme in `Macro Management on Agriculture- Supplementation/Complementation of States Efforts` through Work Plans assistance is provided to the farmers for transfer of technology and on-farm handling. Under this Scheme 25% subsidy is being provided for infrastructure development. State Governments have the freedom to prioritize their programmes as per their felt need. However, details about the number of farmers availing the assistance is being maintained by the respective State Governments. NABARD is providing crop loan for cultivation of vegetables including onion through different State Co-operative Banks. The interest rate being charged is in the range of 12% to 13%. There are 12 canalizing agencies involved in the export of onion as given in Annexure-II .

Annexure-I

STATE-WISE AREA AND PRODUCTION OF ONION IN INDIA

State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
	Area (`000 ha.)			Production (in `000 MT)		
Andhra Pradesh	28	23.75	19.76	282.63	240	176.25
Bihar	20	22	23.5	192.5	220	258
Gujarat	35	35.5	45	695.41	705.41	900
Haryana	11	12.5	13.75	207.5	225	270
Karnataka	52	43.1	32	428	363.84	251.69
Madhya Pradesh	23.5	22.5	24.5	301	276	286.8
Maharashtra	68	65	75.5	1372.5	1375	1535
Orissa	55	55	55.25	465	465	483
Others	28	29.5	32	331.5	373	393
Rajasthan	25	25	26.25	316	316	350
Tamil Nadu	30	25.4	19.5	408	337.2	224.76
Uttar Pradesh	51	51	53.75	585.5	555	593
Total	426.5	410.25	420.76	5585.54	5451.45	5721.5

Annexure-II

The export is canalized through different agencies of different States viz.

1 Spice Trading Corporation Ltd., Bangalore.
2 Gujarat Agro industries Corporation, Ahmedabad.
3 National Co-operative Consumer`s Federation of India Ltd., New Delhi.
4 Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd., Bangalore.
5 Maharashtra State Agriculture Marketing Board, Pune.
6 North Karnataka Onion Growers Co-operative Society Ltd., Hubli.
7 Andhra Pradesh State Trading Corporation, Hyderabad.
8 West Bengal Essential Commodities Supply Corporation Ltd., Kolkata.
9 M.P. State Agro Industries Development Corporation.
10 Karnataka State Produce Processing and Export Coporation Ltd., Bangalore.
11 M.P. Oilfed, Bhopal.
12 A.P. Markfed, Hyderabad.